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SOLARIS, VONES



# The 1864 Election

## Soldiers' Votes

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

The New Orleans *Era* says the 2d New York cavalry, serving in Louisiana, has cast its entire vote, upward of eight hundred, for Lincoln, McClellan not receiving a single ballot. The corps served for many months in the Army of the Potomac under McClellan.

The *Hartford Times* predicts that thousands who vote for Lincoln will bitterly regret it before July. So it seems the *Times* has no doubt that Lincoln will be elected.

## LINCOLN IN 1864.

"It is Lincoln again, boys! Hip! hip! hurrah!"

It was Jones, our Jones of Company E, the abolitionist, the long, lank member of the company who was always kicking the heels of the man in front of him and being kicked by the man who followed him; Jones, who could preach a sermon, make a campaign speech, teach school, or play a game of poker, and who loved Lincoln as he loved his father, who enthusiastically called out: "It is Lincoln again, boys! Hip! hip! hurrah!"

I just now recalled Jones' reception of the news of the second nomination of Abraham Lincoln, an event which took place in Baltimore on the 7th day of June, 1864. The news didn't reach us at Cold Harbor, at least so that the whole army heard it, until the 9th. For more than a month Grant and Meade had kept that army of 100,000 steadily at work, and most of the time under fire. For ten days before that piece of news came the army had been under fire, in the memorable Cold Harbor campaign in which nearly 2,000 lost their lives and about 12,000 were wounded. This, of course, included the charge in which nearly 2,000 men were killed and over 10,000 wounded. That is the charge which Grant speaks of in his memoirs as an event which he has always deeply regretted.

\* \* \* \* \*

I can see how our Jones looked as the newsboy threw him the Washington Chronicle while he was in the trenches; see him open the paper, nervously glance at the headings and then drop it and look up, his little eyes as bright as balls of fire, and his face reddening so that in spots it actually showed through the thick coat of powder smoke and Virginia dust. He had seen the announcement of Lincoln's renomination. He threw up his hands and with that thin, shrill voice none of us forgot, exclaimed as noted, and the cheers were given. Every man within hearing of him joined, and those cheers, mingled with the whistling of bullets and the screeching of shell, meant more than cheers usually do. They came from patriot hearts and brave ones, too. They were uttered by men who had given nearly three of the best years of their lives, exposed to danger, that they might stand between the life and death of the nation. They were in line of battle because they believed in and loved the republic, believed in and loved our form of government. The renomination of Abraham Lincoln did not mean to them a cessation of hostilities. On the contrary, they knew it meant that the war would be prosecuted with all of the vigor that Lincoln and the men who stood closest to him could prosecute it; that there would be battles and battles; that new rivers of blood would flow; that thousands of their comrades would go to their death and other thousands be maimed, yet they hailed with gladdest delight the renomination of the war President.

\* \* \* \* \*

In line of battle under Sherman in the southwest, under Grant and Meade at the east, or wherever the union forces were stationed, and under whatever circumstances surrounded, they heard of the renomination of Abraham Lincoln with joyful hearts, and in each company in all of the thousands of regiments there was a Jones who exclaimed: "It is Lincoln again, boys! Hip! hip! hurrah!"

There was no politics in the army. The men under Sherman, Grant, Butler and Sheridan, in line of battle, under fire, with smoked and begrimed faces and hands, weary and worn, more anxious for peace than any other class, unless it was the wives, mothers and children, momentarily facing death, threw their hats and raised their voices in glad shouts over the news from Baltimore, not because they were republicans, but because they were patriots, because this country and its institutions were dearer to them than anything else on earth. They were willing to face the certain dangers and hardships of the future under that great leader and still greater President.

\* \* \* \* \*

I wonder if in this exciting and highly important presidential campaign, thirty-two years after the second Lincoln campaign, I can interest the readers of THE TIMES-HERALD by telling something about how the contest for the presidency was carried on in the army. Nearly every northern state made provision for its soldiers to vote. If that had not been done it would not have prevented deep interest in the campaign, for the army called to service by Lincoln was not made up of human machines. It came from the colleges, the school houses, from all of the busy walks of life, and was composed of well-informed boys and men. Some of the most interesting political discussions I ever listened to occurred in that never-to-be-forgotten year of 1864, the year in which the greatest number of hard battles was fought, the year in which the rivers of blood overflowed, the year in which more than 100,000 gallant men were killed or wounded, that the government of the United States might not perish from the earth. Sometimes these discussions took place on the march, sometimes in camp, often while in line of battle behind hurriedly constructed breastworks; sometimes in tents where only three or four could assemble; sometimes on picket; sometimes in rain, and again in sunshine.

The army at the east had been commanded by McClellan, "Little Mc," who had endeared himself to all of his men. The democrats had nominated him for President. While none of his old command had words of censure for him, their hearts could not follow him in that contest. Lincoln held the key to the hearts of 99 out of every 100 of the soldiers. The men who had been commanded by McClellan praised Lincoln and denounced the platform which their old commander stood upon. The most severe thing they said of McClellan was that he ought to have thought more of his old army than to accept a nomination for President on a platform that declared the war for the union a failure.

\* \* \* \* \*

It was not necessary to flood the army with campaign documents in order to get votes for Lincoln in 1864, and I may add that it is not necessary to expend time or thought to get the soldiers to stand by their Comrade McKinley in 1896, who stands upon a platform pledged to the best interests of the country for which he and they fought.

The survivors of the union army, and I am glad to know that a vast number of the survivors of the confederate army regard the government that came to us from Washington and the patriots of his time, and that was preserved for us by Lincoln and the patriots of his time, as good enough.

J. A. WATROUS.

Aug 12, 1896

# A SPECIAL ORDER FROM LINCOLN

*Made on the 2nd from L. S. - 3-13*

By J. H. ROCKWELL.

**T**HOMAS F. STEVENS of Palmyra, Ill., is one among the few remaining number of those who remember the early days of the rebellion and the distracting political struggles of that time. Mr. Stevens, who was first sergeant of Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-second Illinois volunteers, recently told me some very interesting details of the situation among the soldiers in the early sixties.

During October, 1864, while waiting for his regiment to come in from its pursuit of General Sterling Price, he served as adjutant at the convalescent barracks in St. Louis. Four hundred men were stationed there at that time, representing many regiments and states. About one-third of the boys were for General McClellan for president, while the remaining two-thirds were for Mr. Lincoln. About a hundred were from Illinois, which state, owing to legislative enactment, did not permit its troops to vote in the field, although many other states had made provision to that end.

As election day drew near the anxiety of the men to exercise the right of franchise—the right of American citizenship—became intense. Southern sympathizers had spread a report that the government had issued an order forbidding the furloughing of McClellan men home to vote. But the lie was given to this report in an order from the president directing that soldiers residing in states where no provision for voting in the field had been made should be given furloughs home and for a length of time that would give them ample opportunity to vote, to vote as they pleased, and return to their respective commands.

The result was that many soldiers who had intended voting against Mr. Lincoln voted for him, because he had given them an untrammeled ballot and had proved to them that he was not the narrow minded partisan his enemies tried to make him appear.

Lieutenant Chapman of Mr. Stevens' regiment was in command of the barracks, and when he began to consider the matter he found that no one had authority to issue the furloughs that were being asked for except General Sedgwick, and he was away after

Price and could not be reached. His adjutant at St. Louis when approached said he could do nothing, and, although he had telegraphed the secretary of war in regard to the matter, he could get no answer from him.

But some of the men knew Mr. Lincoln, knew his kindly disposition and his disregard of red tape, and they suggested to Lieutenant Chapman that a telegram be sent to him asking

that he relieve the situation. This proposition, however, was not received with much enthusiasm. Many of the Republicans said it would be useless, as the president could not consider such a matter unless it reached him through the proper channel, and the Democrats were indifferent, saying that they would go to no trouble or expense then, but would wait until they got a chance later, when they would show the abolitionists whether or not they could continue to run things and whether a white man was not as good as a negro.

After a long discussion, in which the lieutenant and Mr. Stevens assured the men that all would be treated alike and with absolute fairness, it was decided that a man be sent with the telegram to the office, three miles away, and find out how much it would cost to send it. In an hour the man returned with the astonishing news that it would cost \$12 to send the

Mr. Lincoln was wiser than his generation and knew better how to reach the hearts of his soldiers than either of his generals or the trained politicians of his party, for out of his great nature went an influence that wrote itself large upon the consciences of the people and in a language easy to be understood. His single, unflattering aim was to do the right as God gave him to see the right, to the end that "a government of the people, by the people and for the people" might not perish from the earth.



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IT WOULD COST \$12.

message. As the troops had not received any pay for several months few of the men had money, and the raising of \$12 seemed a rather large undertaking. Finally, however, the amount was raised, and the telegram was sent to the president. This was late in the afternoon. Next morning the answer came, and it instructed the lieutenant to furlough the men as requested in the message. The men were wild over the news, and cheer after cheer went up for "Honest Abe," McClellan men outrivaled the Lincoln men in their demonstrations of delight, many of them declaring that they would cast their votes for the man who was not above looking after the common soldier, and I learned afterward that they did vote for Lincoln.

# Depew Recalls Lincoln's Aid in Collecting Vote

*W. G. H. Tribune*  
Ex-Senator Believes Gathering New York Soldier Ballots in '64 Won Re-election for Liberator

*Feb. 12 1927*

How Abraham Lincoln enabled him to collect the votes of 300,000 New York soldiers serving with Union forces throughout the South in 1864 was related yesterday by Chauncey M. Depew before he departed for St. Augustine, Fla.

Mr. Depew was Secretary of State of New York in that year, and since the State Legislature was Republican and Horatio Seymour, the Governor, was a Democrat, the Legislature picked the Secretary of State to collect the soldiers' ballots.

"I got no help from Secretary Stanton," Mr. Depew said, "and was on the point of going home and telling the people about it when I met Elihu B. Washburne, one of Lincoln's intimates.

## Lincoln Great Politician

"Lincoln," said Washburne, "is not only a great President, but he is a great politician, and if there was no other way of collecting those votes he would go around with a carpet bag and get them himself. I told the President what was wanted and within an hour he had sent an order to the Secretary of War that made that official keenly interested in my errand. Those soldier votes doubtless carried New York for the Rail Splitter.

"No one in any country ever started life so unpromising as Abraham Lincoln," said Mr. Depew. "Nothing equals the poverty and helplessness of a poor white cabin in the South, and especially at that time. You can't account for Lincoln.

"I found out this about him—he rarely argued anything. He simply told a story, or cracked a joke, but it met the case on all fours, so that if you were on the opposite side you had nothing to say.

## Democrat Interviews Liberator

"My old friend, John Ganson, the ablest lawyer in western New York, a war Democrat, supported Lincoln. He was a fine looking, very dignified man, with a very impressive appearance and way of talking, but he had not a speck of hair on his head or anywhere else on his face. He went up one day to Mr. Lincoln when things looked very bad at the front and everybody was discouraged, and he said: 'Mr. President, you know that I am a war Democrat. I am leaving my party to support your measures because I believe in the country first and the party next. Now, things look very bad at the front, and I think, with this relation to you and your administration, I ought to know just how things are. How are they, sir?' Mr. Lincoln looked at him for a minute and then said in his quizzical way, 'Ganson, how clean you shave!'

"There was a party of New York financiers who went down to Washington. The financial situation was frightful, because gold was so reduced in volume, and at an unprecedented pre-

mium. They said: 'Mr. President, we are representing the financial interests in the financial center of the country, and we think that the best thing to do is to take the gold of the Treasury and give it to the people.'

"Lincoln knew that what little gold there was in the Treasury was all the basis the country had for its credit and the enormous volume of paper currency which had been put out. Lincoln didn't argue. They could have beaten him at that. He said to them: 'Gentlemen, out in Illinois when I was practicing law, the farmers were troubled because of a disease among the hogs that was carrying them off and likely to destroy the whole of that industry. Some one suggested that the way to cure the hogs was to cut off their tails. So they cut them off, and they were cured. The next year the same disease came back, but they all died because they had no tails.'

## Picked Up Stories Everywhere

"I asked Lincoln once where he got so many stories. He said he picked them up everywhere; that when he was on the circuit in Illinois when they reached the country towns they all stopped at the same hotel, and they stayed up all night—the judge and the lawyers and the witnesses, and the grand and petit jurymen—swapping experiences. Lincoln never drank liquor, but he was the best story teller of the lot.

"On the other hand," continued Mr. Depew, "there was another Lincoln formed on his daily reading of the Bible, which he knew almost by heart, and on Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress.' These and Shakespeare helped to form Lincoln's genius for expression. It was his education from these sources which gave to the world those two imperishable productions, that oration which will live forever, the Gettysburg speech, and that finest state paper ever written by a President, and which never can be copied, Lincoln's second inaugural address. His fame could rest upon these two.

"It has taken a century for Benjamin Franklin to come into his own; that is, into recognition as one of the greatest constructive minds in history. Lincoln came into his own soon after his assassination, and he lives in the hearts of the people as no other purely human character in history."



By The Chicago Sun Washington Bureau.

NEXT Tuesday's presidential election will be unlike any in U.S. history and the soldier vote is the reason. There are precedents for soldier voting, but they do not cover the existing situation, in which the outcome may be decided by the G.I.'s.

The result is that politicians of both parties will tensely watch the votes from the armed forces pour in, wondering just how much they will influence the outcome.

Actually the consensus in Washington is that the soldier vote will not determine the result in any state. At the same time, there is a belief here that

the various election polls should be accepted this year with reservations inasmuch as they cannot include a sampling of voting intentions of men in uniform.

THE only other crucial election in which servicemen have voted was that of 1864, when Abraham Lincoln's civilian majority in the vital states of Pennsylvania and New York was so slight that historians have pointed out it would have been reversed if the soldier vote had gone against the Civil War President.

Some states didn't make any provision in '64 for soldier voting because their legislatures were controlled either by Democrats or by other Lincoln opponents. Lincoln's own state of Illinois was among them.

The Republicans made effective use of such obstructive tactics, just as the Democrats have this year in attacking the refusal of Congress to approve a universal federal ballot.

### CIVIL WAR SOLDIER VOTE

How vitally the soldier vote might influence a tight election is well illustrated by some state results in the Lincoln-McClellan election. Lincoln's majority in New York State was only 7,000 out of 730,000 votes cast. The soldier vote in New York was not counted separately. In Pennsylvania, his civilian majority was 20,000 out of 573,000, but the men in the field gave him an additional 14,000 majority out of 39,000 votes.

State officials went into the field, found the regiments from

their states and set up polling places. A Civil War G.I. from another state was out of luck unless he could obtain a furlough to go home and vote—as many of them did.

But researchers who have dug into the election of 80 years ago find that some states did not even count the soldier vote after their officials decided it would not affect the national outcome. They have also ascertained that in no state where the soldier vote was counted separately did it change the result in that state.

# Badger Soldiers Voted For Lincoln at Front

Capital  
Times  
Madison  
Wis.  
Jan. 23, 1946

Not in 80 years have Wisconsin soldiers on active combat duty in the field voted in a presidential election.

In November, 1864, Wisconsin men in the Union armies had opportunity to vote in the presidential election in the race between Pres. Lincoln and his Democrat opponent, Gen. George B. McClellan. Now, 80 years later, Badger fighters in the South Pacific, in Italy and on battlefronts and in camps throughout the world will

again have opportunity to cast their ballots in a presidential contest.

By unanimous vote, the reconvened session of the legislature passed a measure providing for soldier voting in the field, and set up the machinery to permit soldiers to exercise this franchise.

Soldiers of the 12 Union states voting in the election of November, 1864, cast 116,887 ballots for Lincoln and 33,748 for McClellan. (Continued on Page 6, Column 3)

(Continued from Page 1)

a ratio of more than 3 to 1. In the same 12 states, the civilian vote was 1,072,282 for Lincoln, and 874,672 for McClellan, a ratio of less than 10 to 8 for the Great Emancipator.

In the 12 Union states, soldier ballots were counted separately from the civilian ballots, and in no state did the servicemen's vote change the presidential results.

he Wisconsin legislature, in special session in September, 1862, passed a measure providing for soldiers' voting in the field. There was considerable opposition by those who described it as "political" and "unconstitutional."

The bill was passed by the state senate by a vote of 19 to 7, while the lower house approved it, 52 to 40.

## One in Three Votes

In the presidential election in November, 1864, a total of 13,830 Wisconsin soldiers cast their ballots—11,372 for Lincoln and 2,458 for McClellan. It was estimated that about 48,000 Wisconsin men were in service at that time, and about 40,000 of them were eligible to vote.

They also voted in a general state election in 1862 and a judicial election in 1863.

Files in the archives of the Wisconsin State Historical society contain certified returns of soldiers' votes made by their commanding officers.

It appears that the Union soldiers cast their ballots in the presidential election on Nov. 4, 1864, while the general election in which the civilians voted, was held on Nov. 8 of that year. The marked ballots were not returned to this state, but counted and tabulated in the camps.

Laboriously inscribed in long-hand, the certified returns from camps show the difficulties encountered in tabulating the votes. In that day, companies and regiments were made up largely of soldiers from one state. But even then, soldiers from different counties received different ballots, and the tabulations of the votes fill many shelves in the historical archives.

## Many With Sherman

A great many of Wisconsin's soldiers were in the south with Gen. Sherman, and in Louisiana in November, 1864. Historians have explained that voting places were set up in back of battle lines or in camps where soldiers were not engaged in combat.

And historians record too that Republican and Democratic leaders were both active about the field and camp polling places, distributing handbills listing their candidates.

Some returns were delayed weeks before they were received by the secretary of state and, consequently the results were not known for weeks.

The historical archives contain a petition signed by soldiers at Camp Randall requesting the governor that they be permitted to return home to vote. But they cast their votes at a polling place set up at Camp Randall.

## Had Complete State

Dane county Union soldiers had an entire slate of national, state and county officers to ballot on, as did Badger soldiers of other counties. Among the documents of the Civil war soldier vote is a Dane county handbill of the Union (Republican) party candidates, preserved by the state historical museum.

An interesting sidelight in the Lincoln-McClellan race is that Gen. McClellan carried the city of Madison by a vote of 109, although the state went to Lincoln and his running partner, Vice-Pres. Andrew Johnson.

# Badger Soldiers Of Civil War Had Chance to Vote

## NATIONAL UNION TICKET.

### LINCOLN AND JOHNSON.



"THE UNION, IT SHALL BE PRESERVED."

FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS—

For the State at Large.  
WILLIAM W. FIELD.  
HENRY L. BLOOD.

District Electors.

GEORGE C. NORTHRUP.  
JONATHAN BOWMAN.  
ALLEN WORDEN.  
HENRY J. TURNER.  
HENRY F. BELITZ.  
ALEXANDER S. McDILL.

FOR STATE SUPERINTENDENT—

JOHN G. McMYNN.

FOR MEMBER OF CONGRESS—

ITHAMAR C. SLOAN.

FOR STATE SENATOR—

WILLARD H. CHANDLER.

FOR MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY—

WILLIAM M. COLLADAY.

FOR SHERIFF—

GEORGE W. McDUGAL.

FOR TREASURER—

L'ANSTNG W. HOY.

FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS—

ANDREW PICKARTS.

FOR CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT—

HERBERT A. LEWIS.

FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY—

SIDNEY FOOTE.

FOR CLERK OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS—

JOHN A. JOHNSON.

FOR COUNTY SURVEYOR—

HENRY M. WARNER.

FOR COOKER—

WILLIAM M. COLLADAY.

Pres. Lincoln and Andrew Johnson headed this Union party handbill of successful Republican candidates for national, state and county officers voted on in Dane county in the general election of November, 1864. Such handbills were distributed among Civil war soldiers who balloted in the combat field. The opposing Democratic ticket was headed by Gen. George B. McClellan. This Union campaign handbill is preserved in the archives of the state historical museum.

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WALTER GOULD LINCOLN  
LAWYER

SUITE 1113 LINCOLN BUILDING  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
TUCKER 8434

August 18th, 1952.

Mr. Louis Warren,  
Lincoln Life Insurance Association,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren:

Here's a bit of Lincolniana. -

During 1864-5 Robert H. Kellogg, Sgt. Mjr. 16 Reg. Con Vol was a prisoner of the Confederate Army - and confined in Andersonville prison. He wrote "Life and Death in Rebel Prisons" published by L. Stebbins, Hartford, Con. 1866. Referring to the second election of Mr. Lincoln he says, (page 329 et fol.):

"On the day of election a quantity of white and black beans were given to Sergeant Kemp of the 1st Conn. Cavalry, by the Rebel Quartermaster, with the understanding that they be used as ballots, whereby the political opinions of the prisoners might be ascertained; the white beans representing McClellan, and the black ones President Lincoln. Two empty bags were hung up on the stockade, inside the 'dead line' and the thousands were ordered to fall in, in succession, and all who wished to vote, to march to the spot. Beans were given them, and one by one they stepped up and deposited their vote as they chose, a man standing by, the while, to see that no fraud was committed. It was conducted fairly and quietly, but the result was not particularly gratifying to those who commenced it. I have not the exact figures, but I think the proportion was two and a half for Lincoln to one for McClellan. This was an expression of feeling and opinion among men who were ragged and half famished with hunger, yet were not in favor of any peace gained by disgraceful compromise."

About the same time Sgt. W. Goodyear, Co. 27th Regt C.V was in Camp Lawton, near Millen, Georgia. In the same book, telling of the same election, he says, beginning page 393:-

"As the time of the Presidential election drew near, the rebels expressed a desire that we should vote upon the question ourselves. Accordingly ballot boxes were procured, and on the day when the people of the North were deciding the momentous issue, we gathered together in Millen prison, and in the midst of great excitement, gave expression

WALTER GOULD LINCOLN  
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SUITE 1113 LINCOLN BUILDING  
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Mr. Louis Warren

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August 18, 1952.

to our political preferments. We knew that it was WAR or PEACE. As we deposited our votes, so did we speak for one or the other, and show forth our position in the country's cause.

At sunset the votes were counted, and the result was 3,014 for Lincoln, and 1,050 for McCellen."

You will remember that there was a rumor of the capture of Jefferson Davis, dressed in woman's clothes - and this was denied by Mr. Davis and his friends.

On page 395 of this same volume is an official note to General Dix from E. M. Stratton, referring to the details of such capture subscribed by J. H. Wilson, Brevort Major Gen.:

"The Herald's correspondent gives the particulars of the arrest of Jefferson Davis, fully confirming the official accounts. When the guard went to the tent, they were met by Mrs. Davis, en dishabille, with 'Please, gentlemen, do not disturb the privacy of ladies before they have time to dress.' Presently there appeared at the tent an ostensible old lady, with a bucket on her arm, escorted by Mrs. Davis and her sister: 'Please let my old mother go to the spring for some water to wash in', said Mrs. Davis in a pleading tone.

'It strikes me that your mother wears very big shoes, ' said the guard, as he hoisted the old lady's dress with his sabre, and discovered a pair of No. 13 calfskins, and 'whiskers, too'? said the sergeant, as he pulled a hood from the face, and Jeff. Davis stood before them."

Sincerely,



WGL/b

Letters of a Civil War Soldier  
Christian Science Monitor  
April 7, 1983

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*After being wounded, Hugh Perkins spent the summer in Wisconsin on furlough. In October he returned to his regiment.*

City Point, Va.  
October 2, 1864

Dear Friend,

The Rebel prisoners are a-coming in in droves, and they say our corps is within a mile and a half of Richmond and driving the Rebs before them. I will soon be with my old regiment again, enjoying its pleasures and hardships. God knows it will seem good to me.

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City Point, Va.  
October 16, 1864

Dear Friend,

You say I have friends in Pine River. Well, I suppose I have, and that's not the only place I have friends. No, Herbert, if my friends at home should all desert me, my brothers in arms would yet stick by me to the last. I have never seen a happier time in my life than these two weeks past since I have been with my old true-hearted friends.

I have got a permanent detail at division headquarters, as provost guard for General [Samuel W.] Crawford where I am now doing duty. I have no picket duty to do, no knapsack to carry on a march. In a fight we have to form a skirmish line in the rear of the main line of battle and keep the skedaddlers up to their knitting, besides taking care of prisoners.

We have plenty to do here, and the best the service affords. We have for variety mackerel, potatoes, beans, pork, beef, onions, warm light bread, sugar, coffee, molasses, pickles, pepper, salt, and vinegar. I never drawed half so many rations before, nor I never had so good an appetite. I am getting as fat as a pig.

We have to put on a great deal of style. We are the best drilled company of one hundred men you ever saw together. They furnish us shoe blacking and white gloves, and we have to have all new clothes on while on duty or parade. We are a regular band-box company.

On the [presidential] election question, there was a great many of our boys for Gen. McClellan until about a week ago. We were on picket about a mile from Petersburg. We had been on scarcely a half hour when we were up on our breastworks, both us and our Johnny friends with daily papers in our hands. We made a few exchanges of papers, when General Crawford and staff made his appearance. But the Rebs still remained on their breastwork, and hollered, "Hurrah for McClellan." Our boys hurrahed for Lincoln.

We then began to talk the matter over, and we all agreed that what the Rebels liked was just what we had no right to like, and if it was going to do them so much good to elect McClellan, we just wouldn't do it. Since that you hardly hear McClellan's name mentioned in our regiment. Three weeks ago they would have given him a majority. McClellan is played out in the Army. Herbert, you may bet it now lays with the citizens of the North.

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